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Watergate Spoofs Hot Sellers At Book Store

By LARRY LIPMAN
Staff Writer

While some wallow in Watergate, the scandal that Sen. Sam Ervin has called the worst national disaster including the Civil War, others are laughing all the way to the bank.

At the Walden Book Store in the Frederick Towne Mall, Watergate - related books, pamphlets and even a puzzle have become such hot items that an entire table at the front of the store is devoted to Watergate.

Book titles range from the humorous to the serious, from "Poor Richard's Watergate" to "The Impeachment of Richard Nixon."

Most of the titles are spoofs on the present scandal. The most popular has been Gerald Gardner's "The Watergate Follies" a collection of photographs with humorous sayings in comic - strip style balloons. The first of the Watergate - related spoofs, "The Watergate Follies" is sold out at Walden and at a number of other book stores and magazine counters in Frederick which formerly carried it.

Originality is not synonymous with success where the Watergate spoof books are concerned. Walden manager Mrs. Barbara Scott stated that "Poor Richard's Watergate" is currently the leading seller in its class. Like the "Follies," this pamphlet is a collection of former news photographs of President Nixon, John Mitchell, Ronald Ziegler and a host of related characters. Also like the "Follies" it uses the cartoon balloons. On the cover of "Poor Richard's Watergate" is a photo of Nixon on the telephone. In the cartoon balloon he is saying: "Hello, Dial - a - prayer?" On the back cover, Nixon is shown saying: "I said I'd take crime off the streets, I just never said where I'd put it."

Another hot selling item is "The Watergate Cookbook." Comprised of real recipes, this $2.95 pamphlet style publication boasts such delicacies as "Stan's Mexican Dip," "Million Dollar Fruits," "Tricia's Honey Yams" and "Ellsberg's Leeks Au Gratin."

"The National Watergate Test," another of the spoofs, poses questions and lets the reader select his own answer. Question 12 is Sen. Howard Baker's big question: "Who was at the bottom of the Watergate Scandal?" Possible answers are: a. Nixon, b. Erlichman, Haldeman, c. Mitchell, d. Checkers.

An off - beat item on the Watergate table at Walden is "The Puzzle of Watergate," which shows the White House with a horde of bugs (the insect variety) swarming out of the North Portico.

On the serious side, the table sports a number of copies of the hot selling "The Impeachment of Richard Nixon." The book, subtitled "A Call to Action NOW," charges "The Nixon Administration set out deliberately, knowingly, in a systematic way to subvert and destroy the very process through which American democracy must operate."

WATERGATE WALLOW — Mrs. Brian Scott, manager of the Walden Book Store at the Frederick Towne Mall, arranges books on the Watergate table in the front of the store. Mrs. Scott is holding a copy of "Poor Richard's Watergate" which is the current best - seller on Watergate. — (Photo by Larry Lipman)